

HELP! How DO I BEGIN!

Teacher-Librarian Induction

BOOK CLUBS

Book Clubs offer an alternate literate opportunity for enhancing student engagement and reflections of their world with reading. Book Clubs differentiate themselves from classroom practice through setting, selection, and approach.

The setting is an informal environment strewn with comfortable chair and offerings of ample food and drink. Book selection involves choice and books are read for pleasure. The approach is an invitation to join the book club. The Club is facilitated by a convener, but as there is no set agenda. Discussion is spontaneous, authentic, and student driven. The discussion enables students and adults to co-construct a collective interpretation of a text. Adults, as well as students, delight in the text's surprises and struggle to ascertain the meaning of the novel.

Facilitating a Book Club

1. Start the first meeting with an ice-breaker activity.
2. Explain the rules of engagement - students facilitate the discussion, everyone is an equal participant, there is no evaluation component, etc.
3. Begin the meeting, but do not lead it.
4. Engage students in sharing of their questions, wonderings, insights, or connections derived from the reading.
5. Intervene only as a fellow wanderer - share a question that you are genuinely wrestling with and has no one right answer.
6. Marvel at students' insights.
7. Remind participants of next book club meeting.

Adapted from Appleman, Deborah. (2006) *Reading For Themselves*.

The traditional book club, in which the group all read the same book and then get together to discuss it, is not the only approach. Below are some variations on book clubs to consider; however solicit input from the students before deciding upon the approach best suited to your customers.

- Online Book Club
- Genre Book Club
- FanFiction Book Club

- SYRCA Willow Award Nominees Book Club
- ALA's Teen Read Week
- YALSA's Teens' Top Ten

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